



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 5, 2007

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House Bill 6700 – An Act Revising the Scope of Podiatric Practice

The Department of Public Health supports House Bill 6700.

During the 2006 legislative session, the General Assembly enacted Public Act No. 06-160 which required the Commissioner of Public Health to convene a panel comprised of the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, a qualified arbitrator selected and retained by the commissioner and two representatives each from the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association and the Connecticut Orthopedic Society, to develop a protocol and recommendations for permitting qualified practitioners of podiatric medicine, as described in subsection (b) of section 20-54 of the general statutes as amended by Public Act 06-160, to perform surgery on the ankle, as defined in subsection (b) of said section 20-54. The act required the arbitrator to direct and advise the panel in its deliberations, and the cost of the arbitrator was to be distributed equally among the representatives from the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association and the Connecticut Orthopedic Society. The act also required that on or before January 1, 2007, the Commissioner of Public Health submit a report on the panel's findings and recommendations to this Committee.

House Bill 6700 revises the scope of podiatric practice to allow qualified practitioners of podiatric medicine, who have been issued a permit by the Department, to perform surgery on the ankle. The language within this bill was drafted in accordance with the recommendations as developed and agreed upon by the panel.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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